

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph on page 4, lines 23-34 as follows:

The apparatus has a magnet head 2 comprising 96 elongated permanent magnets 3 (length/thickness about 10:1) with the same distribution as the plate, the upper ends of the permanent magnets being joined by means of a support plate. The magnets are preferably made of a material (e.g. NeFeB) that has high remanence and coercivity. The magnet head is fixed to a lifting device 4, which is movable in the vertical direction. At the same location under the magnet head a casing support 5 is provided, which has a hole at the location of each magnet. The casing support is fixed to a lifting device 6 so as to be movable in the vertical direction. A comb of casings 7 is disposed on the casing support, this comb of casings 7 comprising ~~[[a]]~~ a plurality of individual casing wells 8 for insertion of each magnet 3 of the magnet head 2. At ~~[[its]]~~ their lower ends, each of the casing wells 8 has a separating area shaped as a cone with a concave surface, with a sharp lower tip at the centre.

Please amend the paragraph on page 4, line 36 bridging page 5, line 13 as follows:

The apparatus comprises a rotating tray 9 with locations for sample plates ~~[[8]]~~ 10. By rotating the tray 9, the desired plate 10, whose wells have a liquid mixture containing magnetic particles to be separated ~~[[time]]~~ therefrom, is placed in a treatment position under the magnet head 2. When it is desirable to remove the particles from the liquid mixture in the wells of the sample plate 10, the magnet head 2 is lowered into the comb of casings 7 and these two are inserted together into the wells of the sample plate

10. The particles in the wells of the sample plate 10 now adhere to the separating area of the ~~casings~~ casing wells 8. After this, the comb of casings 7 and the magnet head 2 are lifted together. When the magnetic particles are to be released, the comb of casings 7 and the magnet head 2 are lowered jointly into the wells of another sample plate 10, and after this the magnet head 2 is lifted first, and then the comb of casings 7. Both in the steps of removing and of releasing the magnetic particles, the comb of casings 7 may perform a number of reciprocating movements (cf. WO 94/18565). In FIG. 1, the treatment station comprises a plate 10 with relatively high wells, such a plate being usable especially for performing a separating reaction. It is, of course, possible to use also plates with lower wells, and then the casings can be accordingly shorter.